

Church of St. Paul – Comfrey, MN
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. – Church Social Hall

Members present: Fr. Mark Steffl, Fr. Sam Perez, Dan Davis, Jim Rathman, Matt Eischen, Connie Kelly, Darrell Platz, Dale McMullen, Marianne Schotzko, Jim Schwab, Judy Augustin, Nellie Richter-Secretary
Member absent: Denice Evers

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rathman at 6:30 p.m. Prayer was led by Fr. Steffl.

Agenda additions: Liturgical Press – Advent books/Lent/Easter books (purchased with Japanese Martyrs) – order as usual; Discuss Stewardship letter.

Minutes from July 30, 2020 Administrative Council Meeting presented. M/S/C Schotzko, Platz to accept as printed.

Financials for July and August – Grausam unable to attend tonight. Fr. Steffl mentioned that the 9/11/20 Certificate was cashed in and put into checking (cash flow problems otherwise). Priest mileage will be prorated this year among all 4 parishes rather than each parish paying every time a priest comes for meeting or mass. Should be to our advantage. Stewardship letter was an insert in all AFC bulletins – would like it to also either get mailed with the Parish Handbook or the Church Dinner ticket packets, as all parishioners do not pick up a bulletin. Eischen felt it was better to mail with Church Dinner tickets.

Schotzko said that Fr. Steffl's Stewardship letter was good, but a few items omitted that we would like to have had highlighted that were written for a prior letter draft that was not accepted by Msgr. Lozinski. Fr. Steffl doesn't want to threaten people. No info out there that says we are on the chopping block. There are many uncertainties now, but want to be reassuring and positive. Rathman asked if we are at our capacity for mass now? Fr. Steffl feels that we can rope off every other pew now, even though not 6 feet distancing. M/S/C Schotzko, Eischen to approve Financials and to send Stewardship letter out with Church Dinner ticket packets. Augustin had a question on several checks and what they were for. Richter should check with Grausam on these checks and email Council with findings.

Roof project was started on September 14 and completed prior to October 1 by Peschges and Suess crews. No weather barrier was found along the church roof edges, so possibly why previous ice dam issues. Also, insulation is full in certain areas in the church soffits, so no air space/movement, which could also be an ice dam issue. Chimney was removed to just below the roofline on church – should help with water issues in winter. There was a 3-4-foot gap where the chimney was removed so rain gutters needed to be installed. This will be an additional expense as unable to match to old gutters.

Fire-proof safes – There were 2 church auctions that had several available, but Fr. Steffl wasn't able to get either. Will table this for a year or so. Sending out our Contribution envelopes quarterly: the envelopes have already been printed for 2021. Envelope Company would charge approximately \$900 to print and mail out adult quarterly envelopes, but children's envelopes would probably need to stay as a boxed set as they don't mail out. If under 200 for each mailing, we may have additional postage costs. Will check with company again next April to get updated prices for 2022.

Evening Mass Interest: Fr. Steffl is open to having an evening mass instead of a morning mass – gives an option to people who work during the day. May pose a problem when it gets dark early or winter weather, especially for the elderly. Will try for Tuesday evening masses in November instead of Wednesday morning mass. Rathman said he would like to see our Sunday morning mass earlier than 10:30. Fr. Steffl said he tries to have priest schedules work so that they can maybe do several masses on Sunday. Eischen asked about Sunday evening mass and possibly working out different mass times amongst our AFC. Fr. Steffl will put in his bulletin reflection asking for people to put their ideas out there, but they should also include the times of mass with their suggestion.

The SouthPoint Certificate for \$103,026.69 came due 9/11/20 and went into checking. There are 2- \$80,000 Certificates at Americana Bank that will be coming due 10/27/20. Fr. Steffl is wondering if an Investment account would be better than CD's and should we ask someone to come in to talk to the Council about investing? Eischen mentioned we need to go with safe, secure investments with little risk. Comfrey Fire Dept. has had good returns through Milbrath. Fr. Sam said that CUF also offers investments. Members should let Richter know if there are any investment advisors they would recommend for a presentation at a future meeting. Kelly did add that investing part of the funds instead of all of it would be another option.

Pastoral concerns: Fr. Steffl talked about keypads recently put on the 3 south sacristy doors and if key code is needed, ask office. Visited home-bound parishioners last month and will be doing again next Wednesday. Here to help and serve the parish as much as possible. Fr. Steffl is also teaching grade 4/5/6 for Religious Education now, but would like to be involved in the Confirmation Class, so need people to pray about finding a teacher. If there are other things people want, need to let him know.

Religious Ed by Dan Davis: Classes are running smooth – at Leavenworth now. There are 21 active students, 15 SP and 6 JM. Still need a Grade 4/5/6 teacher yet. There are 6 Confirmation students of which 4 are St. Paul's. Confirmation will be March 14, 2021. First Communion will be held the weekend of April 17/18, 2021 at every church in the AFC. We have been receiving some Religious Ed tuition payments. Youth Ministry for the AFC will be offered on Sunday evenings starting in October.

Church Dinner: Morgan decided to not have their dinner but they are still doing their raffle and also asking for extra donations. With the increase of COVID cases, parishioners were not comfortable working in close proximity for the meal. Rathman said he asked a doctor if workers should be tested prior to working at the dinner, but the doctor suggested to not be tested. Will people drive here for just a meal? All meals this year will be drive-up take-outs and in-town deliveries only.

CCW by Schotzko: Holding Phantom Bake Sale in October. Respect Life is Oct 4th. Still waiting for Circle info so Parish Handbook can get completed. Anointing Mass possibility in future? Fr. Steffl hasn't done this in his prior parishes as it is offered to individuals if needed. Liturgy by Augustin: Have been providing music on Sundays from Choir loft. Missalettes are available for people to take and bring back for mass. Liturgical Environment by Schotzko: Fresh flowers are coming to an end. Microphone issues, mainly with Fr. Zach. AFC Report: No recent meeting and none planned in near future.

Cemetery Report: Fr. Steffl likes to do a 2nd Collection in early November and around Memorial Day for the cemetery. Envelopes are included in our contribution box sets for both of these times.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Steffl at 8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nellie Richter, Secretary